

E1  
description, the specific gravity means true specific gravity, and is not bulk density, fill density, and apparent specific gravity which are generally used.

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IN THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of Claims 6, 8, 9, 15, 23, 27 and 30 incorporating any amendments is shown below.

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E2  
6. (Five Times Amended.) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:  
a packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and  
a water-permeable pressure layer having a load which can suppress a deformation of the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;  
wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is provided on the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;  
wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metal particles or ceramic particles; and  
wherein the rigid metal particles are one of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium.

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E3  
8. (Four Times Amended.) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the respective segments formed by a vertical partition have a cross-sectional area of 50 to 5000 cm<sup>2</sup>.

9. (Four Times Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a vertical partition has a height of 20 to 300 cm in a vertical direction.

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15. (Four Times Amended.) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

a layer configured to disperse and mitigate an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas;

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is provided under the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metallic particles or ceramic particles; and

wherein the rigid metallic particles are one of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium.

23. (Thrice Amended.) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

a water-permeable pressure layer having a load which can suppress a deformation of the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is provided on the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metal particles or ceramic particles;

wherein the rigid metal particles are one of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium; and

wherein the packed bed is provided in a wet-oxidation treatment unit.

27. (Twice Amended.) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

E6 a layer configured to disperse and mitigate an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas;

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is provided under the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metallic particles or ceramic particles;

wherein the rigid metallic particles are one of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium; and

wherein the packed bed is provided in a wet-oxidation treatment unit.

30. (Twice Amended.) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water comprising:

E7 a packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

a water-permeable pressure layer having a load which can suppress a deformation of the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

a layer configured to disperse and mitigate an upward stream of the waste water or a waste gas, said layer being provided under the packed bed;

wherein the pressure layer is provided on the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent;

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is a plurality of rigid metallic particles or ceramic particles; and

wherein the rigid metallic particles are one of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium.